



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 02 October 2007

Current Nationwide



[For info click here](#)

- *Fox News* reports that a Bosnian man tried to enter the U.S. embassy in Vienna, Austria carrying a backpack containing hand grenades, nails, and Islamic literature. The police arrested the man after he was intercepted at security. (See item [21](#))
- *PRNewswire* reports that a study conducted by the American Red Cross and the Council for Excellence in Government has shown that Americans are more prepared than last year to deal with weather emergencies, natural disasters and terrorist attacks. The report is intended to help state officials determine areas of vulnerability. (See item [22](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy; Chemical; Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste; Defense Industrial Base; Dams](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance; Transportation and Border Security; Postal and Shipping; Information Technology; Communications; Commercial Facilities](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture and Food; Water; Public Health and Healthcare](#)

Federal and State: [Government Facilities; Emergency Services; National Monuments and Icons](#)

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: **Physical:** [ELEVATED](#),
Cyber: [ELEVATED](#)

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *September 29, Los Angeles Times* – (California) **L.A. County calling for lights-out hour.** San Francisco and Los Angeles County residents plan to switch off the lights for 60 minutes on October 20, between 8 and 9 p.m. In the following weeks Los Angeles officials will publicize the event, which might drop energy use by 10 percent, according to a city councilwoman. “The idea is to show people that a simple action can affect climate change and global warming,” said the director of operations for the Lights Out effort in San Francisco and nationwide. The event also highlights the importance of using energy-efficient compact fluorescent bulbs, an alternative the county embraced when it spent \$30 million for energy efficient lightning in its

official buildings. A nationwide blackout is scheduled for March 29.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-lightsout29sep29,0,3411449.story?coll=la-home-center>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Chemical Industry

2. *September 30, The Dallas Morning News* – (Texas) **Fire put out at chemical warehouse in Hutchins.** Authorities are investigating the cause of a major fire that broke out around 9:15 p.m. on Saturday night at the DYO Chemical warehouse in the 1800 block of Carpenter Road and engulfed a chemical warehouse. The warehouse stored chemicals used to dye leather products such as belts, shoes and saddles. The fire was put out around 3:20 a.m. Sunday. The Environmental Protection Agency monitored the air quality and found normal conditions. Damage estimates were not available.

Source:

<http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/dn/latestnews/stories/100107dnmethutchinsfire.350d6d3.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste

3. *October 1, PR Newswire* – (Wisconsin) **Wisconsin Energy transfers ownership of nuclear plant to FPL Energy.** Wisconsin Energy Corporation announced today that its subsidiary, Wisconsin Electric Power Co., doing business as We Energies, has completed the sale of its Point Beach Nuclear Plant to FPL Energy, a subsidiary of FPL Group, Inc. FPL Energy has assumed management and operation of Point Beach from Nuclear Management Company, which has operated the plant for We Energies since 2000. FPL Energy purchased the plant, its nuclear fuel and associated inventories for approximately \$924 million. Point Beach is located near Two Rivers, Wisconsin. The first unit at Point Beach entered into commercial service in 1970 and is licensed to operate until 2030. The second unit was brought on line in 1973 and is licensed to operate until 2033. The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin approved the transaction and issued a written order on September. 25. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and Michigan Public Service Commission also approved aspects of the transaction.

Source: <http://money.cnn.com/news/newsfeeds/articles/prnewswire/CLM04601102007-1.htm>

4. *September 30, Associated Press* – (International) **Kyrgyzstan to help on nuclear smuggling.** Kyrgyzstan on Sunday signed on to a U.S. program to curb nuclear smuggling, becoming the fourth former Soviet state to join the initiative, after Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and Georgia. The agreement will improve the Central Asian nation's ability to prevent, detect and respond to the smuggling of dangerous nuclear and radioactive material. The deal commits Washington and Bishkek to 20 steps to combat growing concerns about the illicit trade, including police and border security guard training, setting up radiation sensors and preparing an inventory of nuclear material in Kyrgyzstan. Although Kyrgyzstan did not host atomic weapons during the Soviet era, it does have nuclear power plants and there have been several incidents of

radioactive material being smuggled through the country, some from sites to the north in Siberia.

Source: <http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5hPVtIoI-s1EaYcDGUhU0SWBQ5NwD8S028TG1>

5. *September 30, Associated Press* – (National) **U.S. progress in dismantling warheads.** The U.S. is dismantling unneeded nuclear warheads at a faster pace than forecasted as it substantially reduces its atomic arsenal under terms of an arms control treaty with Russia, government officials said Sunday. The Bush administration planned to announce Monday that it has taken apart three times as many reserve warheads in the just-completed budget year than it had projected and expects the rapid pace of dismantlement to continue. At the same time, a report by an independent science advisory group has concluded that “substantial work remains” before a new generation of warheads will be fit for certification without underground nuclear testing. The findings are expected to provide congressional opponents of the warhead program with additional reasons to hold back money for the project. The administration believes that the development of the replacement warheads is essential for keeping a secure and more easily maintained nuclear stockpile as warheads age.

Source:

<http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5gONTVxRj7uoXnLn0Q5YM6xyOeudwD8RVT8N80>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Defense Industrial Base Sector

6. *October 01, Agence France-Presse* – (International) **U.S. corners 42% of world arms market.** According to a Congressional Research Service (CRS) report set to be published Monday, October 01, the U.S. holds 42 percent of the world arms market and ranks as “first in international arms transfer agreements last year, accounting for \$16.9 billion, a \$3.4 billion increase over 2005.” The report listed Russia in second place with \$8.7 billion, or 21.6 percent of the market, and Britain in third place with \$3.1 billion worth of deals. Cumulatively, the three countries controlled 71 percent of international arms trade in 2006. However, overall weapons orders decreased last year by over \$6 billion, a market loss experienced mostly by Western European countries, whose percentage went down to 19.1 from 34.4 registered in 2005. “The demand for U.S. weapons in the global arms marketplace, from a large established client base, has created a more difficult environment for individual West European suppliers to secure large new contracts with developing nations on a sustained basis,” said the main author of the CRS study. He further explained that the transition from the Cold War weapons market trade generated “transactions based as much on economic considerations as those of foreign or national security policy.” The report listed Pakistan as the U.S.’s first trade partner with contracts worth \$5.1 billion. India came in second and Saudi Arabia ranked third with \$3.5 billion and \$3.2 billion respectively in arms agreements.

Source: <http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?F=3076574&C=america>

7. *September 28, Boeing* – (National) **Boeing-led missile defense team completes flight test and intercepts target missile.** Boeing, the prime contractor for the Ground-Based Midcourse Defense (GMD) systems announced that its missile defense flight test successfully intercepted a target warhead on Friday. The flight originated at the Kodiak Launch Complex in Alaska.

Operators launched seventeen minutes later an interceptor from Vandenberg Air Force Base, California. While the long-range ballistic missile target was in the air, the interceptor received data updates from the missile-warning radar at Beale Air Force Base, California. After launching into space, “the interceptor released its exoatmospheric kill vehicle, which proceeded to track, intercept and destroy the target warhead.” After the success of last week’s test, Boeing’s vice president and program director for GMD said that “we have even greater confidence that the GMD system, if called upon in a real-world scenario, will defend the nation against a limited ballistic missile attack.”

Source: http://www.boeing.com/news/releases/2007/q3/070928c_nr.html

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Banking and Finance Sector

8. *October 1, Reuters* – (National) **US Fed, Treasury propose Internet gambling ban rule.** New federal regulations proposed on Monday would require operators of Internet payment systems (banks, credit card firms, etc.) to establish methods of identifying and blocking transactions from illegal gambling sites. The proposal would come as part of the Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act, which Congress passed last year. In a statement, the U.S. Treasury Department and the Federal Reserve said that “the proposed rule would require policies and procedures that are ‘reasonably designed to prevent payments being made to gambling businesses in connection with unlawful Internet gambling.’” The proposal can be found at <http://www.treas.gov/press/releases/reports/noticeofproposedrule.pdf>.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/governmentFilingsNews/idUSN0129519820071001>

9. *October 1, SearchSecurity.com* – (National) **Gap security breach exposes data on 800,000.** A laptop containing the social security numbers of 800,000 job applicants at Gap Inc. was stolen from a third party contractor. The contractor had not encrypted the data, in violation of the agreement it with Gap. Those who applied to work at any of Gap’s stores between July 2006 and June 2007 should contact Gap Inc.’s Security Assistance Helpline. Gap is offering them “a year of free credit monitoring services with fraud resolution assistance.”

Source:

http://searchsecurity.techtarget.com/originalContent/0,289142,sid14_gci1274757,00.html

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Transportation and Border Security Sector

10. *October 1, Associated Press* – (National) **TSA to scrutinize remote controlled toys.** Airport screeners will be taking a closer look at remote control toys in carry-on luggage due to concerns they could be used to detonate bombs, U.S. officials said Monday. The new practice is not the result of a specific threat, according to the Transportation Security Administration. However, authorities recently arrested two Florida college students and accused one of them of posting a video online with instructions on how to use a remote-controlled toy to set off a bomb. Passengers — including children — carrying these toys may have to go through secondary screening.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20071001/ap_on_go_ot/airports_toy_screening;_ylt=AlHjBX1M BYn.IyC3vXWDSGs0NUE

11. *October 1, WCBD, South Carolina* – (National) **New passport rules.** Monday was the first official day of the new travel requirements asking air travelers to present their passports when going to Mexico, Canada, the Caribbean, and Bermuda. The rules were to be enforced eight months ago, but application back-ups at passport offices convinced officials to postpone them. The full implementation of the new rules, which demand all travelers, including those returning by sea or land to the U.S., to present passports or other forms of ID, will be implemented on January 31.
Source: <http://www.wcbd.com/midatlantic/cbd/news.apx.-content-articles-CBD-2007-10-01-0005.html>
12. *September 30, The Associated Press* – (National) **States debate how to maintain bridges.** During a meeting held Sunday and sponsored by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation, state transportation officials from around the country discussed strategies on how to improve and maintain bridges. Although several states stressed the gravity of the problem before the Minnesota bridge collapse in August, more states have become aware of the potential danger deficient bridges pose to their residents. During the meeting, an official from the New York Department of Transportation questioned the government's fund stewardship because "states that do the worst job of maintaining bridges get the most money." Bridges need to be maintained rather than replaced after they deteriorate, commented the official. In agreement with the NY DOT representative, another official from Iowa explained that "treating the bridge's joints and outer surfaces with water sealants and other protective agents could significantly extend a bridge's useful life." Other participants at the meeting disputed the bridge funding distribution and regulation. One of the aspects discussed was the fact that some states transfer the funds to other projects instead of investing them in bridges, according to a transportation specialist with the Library of Congress' Congressional Research Service. The same source voiced his skepticism of lawmakers' intentions to outlaw such a practice "until those states can bring their number of structurally deficient bridges to zero." Currently, there are 74,000 bridges in the country designated as "structurally deficient."
Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20071001/ap_on_re_us/preserving_bridges_1
13. *September 30, Dailynews.com* – (California) **Air plan may cause port chaos.** An effort to reduce diesel emissions at Southern California's ports by imposing stricter regulations on the trucking industry could lead to an economic crisis reminiscent of the 2002 dockworkers' lockout that shut down all major West Coast ports for 10 days, costing the national economy an estimated \$10 billion as ships backed up in harbors and containers piled up at waterfront marine terminals. Similar backlogs may result in the first weeks of the Clean Trucks Program that could begin Jan. 1 at the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, according to a new study. Currently, most cargo is transported by owner-operated tractor-trailers that are hired by trucking firms. The proposal set for a vote this fall by the two cities' Harbor Commissions would require the trucks to be operated by employee drivers. Additionally, access to the terminals would be restricted to motor carriers operating only the cleanest-burning trucks. That plan, the study found, would drive up cargo-hauling costs by about 80 percent, in part because of the expense of providing medical and other benefits to truckers. There also would be the

cost of retrofitting trucks or buying new ones, since fewer than 5 percent of vehicles now using the port meet 2007 emission standards.

Source: http://www.dailynews.com/news/ci_7047749

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Postal and Shipping Sector

14. *October 1, Bloomberg* – (National) **UPS agreement with Teamsters allows pension shift.** United Parcel Service Inc.'s five-year tentative contract agreement with the Teamsters will allow it to pay \$6.1 billion to gain greater control of some pensions and will provide pay and benefit increases for workers. The two sides bargained through the weekend to reach the tentative accord last night, about 10 months before the current contract expires and before today's union-imposed deadline. The contract, if approved by the employees, would fulfill UPS's decade-old goal of withdrawing from the Central States Fund, a multiemployer pension plan for 42,000 Teamsters members at the company. UPS wants to gain greater stability in pension costs by shifting the workers to a new plan run by the company and the union.

Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601103&sid=a3fGA192PxPE&refer=news>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Agriculture and Food Sector

15. *October 1, Associated Press* – (National) **U.S. beef supply safe, official says.** On Monday, the Agriculture Department's undersecretary of food safety said that while an investigation found inadequate E.coli safety measures at the Topps Meat Co. plant in New Jersey, the government was on top of the problem. He added that the nation's meat supply is "the safest in the world." His statements were prompted by a recall involving 21.7 million pounds of potentially contaminated ground beef. More than a dozen people in eight states fell sick, and several were confirmed as contracting E. coli from Topps products. The recall represents all Topps products with either a "sell by date" or a "best if used by date" between Sept. 25 this year and Sept. 25, 2008. Topps said the information is found on a package's back panel. All recalled products also have a USDA establishment number of EST 9748, which is located on the back panel of the package and-or in the USDA legend. A Topps official said over the weekend that the company has now augmented its procedures with microbiologists and food safety experts.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/10/01/AR2007100100362.html>

16. *October 1, Abc.net* – (International) **U.S. blames Australia for wheat imbalance.** The United States Department of Agriculture has further reduced its estimates of United States wheat production, but blames Australia for the current global market imbalance. USDA now expects a 2 percent drop in 2007- 2008 US wheat production from its forecast last month and a 2 percent drop in stocks from a year ago. Supplies for the five largest wheat exporting nations are now expected to hit a 34-year low. The USDA's World Agricultural Outlook Board chairman blames Australia, which has experienced difficult wheat growing conditions this year.

Source: <http://www.abc.net.au/rural/news/content/2007/s2047902.htm>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Water Sector

17. *October 1, Associated Press* – (Michigan) **Lake Superior sets record for low water.** Drought and mild temperatures have pushed Lake Superior's water level to its lowest point on record for this time of year, continuing a downward spiral across the Great Lakes. Preliminary data show Superior's average water level in September dipped 1.6 inches beneath the previous low for that month reached in 1926, the deputy director of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory, said Sunday. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which uses a different measuring technique, calculated the September level at 4 inches below the record. It is the first time in 81 years that the biggest and deepest of the lakes has reached a new monthly low. Some areas had so little water last spring and summer that recreational boats could not reach docking slips, although other marina operators managed to operate normally. Commercial shippers, who haul iron ore and coal across the lakes to manufacturing centers such as Detroit, have been unable to fill cargo holds to capacity for fear of scraping bottom in shallow channels. All the Great Lakes, which together make up about 20 percent of the world's fresh surface water, have been in decline since the late 1990s.

Source:

<http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5gYAMkzn0NmcIaU0gDYfv7DZBEGcAD8S0CMRG0>

18. *September 30, 10news.com* – (California) **California fault lines threaten state water projects.** Fault lines between northern and southern California threaten to derail badly-needed water projects benefiting both ends of the state, it was reported Sunday. The state's governor and legislative leaders do not agree on how to solve the problem, and water agencies in the Southland are voicing worries over aspects of the governor's preferred solution. A Metropolitan Water District general manager, whose agency supplies water for more than 18 million people from San Diego north to the Tehachapi Mountains, said that fixing the delta was his "chief concern." He wants the state to concentrate on new levee protections and other methods to ensure that fresh water makes it through the Sacramento River delta to the pumps that lift it on its journey 400 miles south. But some northern California officials worry that proposals to fix crumbling levees in the delta, and possibly reverse the flow of some delta river channels to help move water south, should not be part of a statewide funding plan. *The San Diego Union-Tribune* reported Sunday that key northern legislators want a proposed statewide bond issue to pay only for water storage dams up north, and not fix the delta for Southland water users. An assemblyman from Santa Cruz fears that helping southern Californians get water from the Sacramento delta will drag down a statewide water bond issue, killing badly-needed new storage projects in northern California. "California today is operating a water system that cannot meet our economic and environmental objectives," said the executive director of the Association of California Water Agencies.

Source: <http://www.10news.com/news/14239945/detail.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Public Health and Healthcare Sector

19. *September 29, Billings Gazette* – (National; International) **Lesser avian flu found in Canada.**

An outbreak of avian influenza H7N3 was discovered Thursday in a poultry farm near Regina, Saskatchewan. On Friday, the U.S. Department of Agriculture banned all imports of poultry and poultry products from the Canadian province, including wild birds taken by hunters. “There were about 100 chickens at a chicken farm near Regina that were affected,” said a representative of Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks in Helena, Washington. The strain is H7N3, which is highly pathogenic but is not the same as the H5N1 strain that has killed 150 people worldwide. 50,000 chickens were killed as the facility was quarantined and emptied and inspections were carried out throughout the area. “Our concern was that we have a lot of guys go north to hunt geese and upland birds in Canada,” the representative said. “Right now, if they’ve harvested those birds in Saskatchewan, they can’t bring those across the border into the U.S. That would affect Montana and North Dakota the most because we border Saskatchewan, but the USDA directive stops the birds from being brought in [from the province to] anyplace across the U.S. border.” He added that the risk to humans was minimal.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Government Facilities Sector

20. *October 1, WISC News* – (Wisconsin) **State issues advisory on chemical found at Badger.**

Following the detection of a chemical, known as DNT, in groundwater surrounding the Badger Army Ammunition Plant, Wisconsin state officials released a drinking water advisory and are planning on enforcing stricter rules for cleanup requirements at the plant. “DNT attacks the cardiovascular, nervous and reproductive systems and can cause headaches, fatigue, nausea, vomiting and chest pain,” according to a state toxicologist’s report. The person in charge of cleanups at the Badger plant sent the report to the Pentagon, which asked an Army toxicologist to review the state’s findings. At the end of the investigation, the Army toxicologist disagreed with the report stating that “there simply isn’t enough evidence to show that the less-common forms of DNT posed an increased health risk,” and that the available data “is not sufficient to support development of a health advisory.” However, Wisconsin is one of the few states that establish its own groundwater standards, and state officials are determined to set enforcement standards for the four less-common forms of DNT, which have been found in wells in the surrounding areas. Army officials also mentioned further tests on the effects of DTN on human health, and their intentions to attend public hearings regarding the water standards. DNT was used in the manufacturing of explosives at the Baraboo plant during the World War II and the Vietnam War.

21. *October 1, Fox News* – (International) **Bosnian with grenades arrested trying to enter U.S. embassy in Vienna.** Austrian authorities announced the arrest of a 42-year-old Bosnian man who attempted to enter the U.S. embassy in Vienna carrying a backpack full of hand grenades, nails, and Islamic literature. The police arrested the man, who tried to run after dropping the bag, and closed off the neighborhood. Authorities did not disclose if the man managed to enter the building, but they confirmed that the suspect was intercepted when going through security checks. No injuries were reported.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,298753,00.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Emergency Services Sector

22. *October 1, PR Newswire* – (National) **American's preparedness for disaster or emergency improves; nation's 'RQ' score up to 4.1.** According to a report published by the American Red Cross and the Council for Excellence in Government, Americans are more prepared than last year to deal with weather emergencies, natural disasters and terrorist attacks. The RQ (Readiness Quotient) went up by half a point since last measured, 15 months ago. Consequently, the current level of preparedness is 4.14 on a scale of 10. The report stated that a major improvement took place in the level of preparedness awareness, a category where 65 percent of the survey participants said that “they know how to find the emergency broadcasting channel on the radio and 62 percent said that their local government had an emergency plan.” Nonetheless, while 4 percent of the respondents said that they implemented all the preparedness actions suggested in the RQ, 23 percent stated they have not taken a single action. When analyzed by age groups, seniors and young adults from 18-24 years old registered improvements. Furthermore, participants, who stated that their employer had an emergency preparedness plan, scored a higher RQ. Similarly, parents whose children were in schools with emergency response plans also registered a higher RQ. “We designed the RQ to be an easy way for individuals and communities to gauge their preparedness and to track progress over time,” said President and CEO of the Council for Excellence in Government. The study was conducted by phone during the National Preparedness Month and included 10 survey questions from the newly enhanced RQ website. The study is valuable because it detects areas of vulnerability and allows governments to come up with plans to fill in the identified gaps.

Source: http://www.earthtimes.org/articles/show/news_press_release,188911.shtml

23. *September 30, Canada.com* – (International) **New passport rules could stall emergency crews at border towns.** As of today, all airline travelers are required to show their passports when traveling to Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Bermuda. This rule will soon be enforced also for land and sea passengers starting January 2008. This new passport requirement is a source of concern for both U.S. and Canadian firefighters located by the border who have a long-established history of collaboration in emergencies. For example, Fort Covington, New York firefighters have often responded to fire and medical emergencies in Quebec. Nevertheless, the new passport requirements will affect the relationship because “firefighters don't have the money to pay for these passports” according to a former fire chief of Fort Covington, who further added that “I don't see a bunch of volunteers paying \$100 (for a passport) just to go to fire and (medical) calls in Canada.” Some firefighters reported having difficulties returning to the U.S. after responding to cross-border emergencies. Canadian officials acknowledged the inconveniences posed by the new rules and asked U.S. legislators “to accommodate emergency workers who routinely cross the border.” “We are asking that the United States establish protocols for the travel of medical, firefighting and other emergency service providers between Canada and the United States,” said the Canadian spokeswoman for the Public Safety Minister.

Source: <http://www.canada.com/topics/news/story.html?id=13751a96-3975-4033-85ed-eac3ddb9efbb&k=31667>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Information Technology

24. *October 1, Computer World* – (National) **Military, oil firm use BI to avert disaster.** The military is now using Business Intelligence software widely to support soldiers in the Iraq war effort. For example, business intelligence tools from Paris-based Business Objects SA are being used to search for defective batteries that could malfunction and cause explosions in Humvee vehicles. A group chief of business systems and technology at the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Life Cycle Management Command Acquisition Center in Fort Monmouth, N.J., said his group also hopes to use BI tools to provide soldiers with data that will help them work in specific types of environments, such as extreme heat. Meanwhile, BP America Inc. in Houston is relying on a BI mashup to keep up with the wrath of Mother Nature. After hurricanes Katrina and Rita devastated the Gulf Coast in 2005, BP wanted to be able to get data about the condition of its drilling equipment, pipelines and other apparatus more quickly, said BP's information management director. The oil company turned to a BI mashup that links maps and geospatial data with company data to create a visual representation of its equipment in the Gulf of Mexico.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=304074&intsrc=news_ts_head

25. *October 1, New York Daily News* – (National) **NYPD has test camera scan license plates in Manhattan.** The New York City Police Department has been operating a camera that scans the license plates of cars passing just blocks from ground zero, a newspaper reported Monday. The camera is an example of the kind of technology the NYPD hopes to use to create a high-tech security ring around Lower Manhattan, the Daily News reported. City officials pointed out that the camera, also not far from City Hall, is currently in a test phase. The camera is the only one of its kind attached to a fixed spot, though some squad cars have similar technology. It transmits scans of license plates wirelessly, and then matches them to a database. The executive director of the New York Civil Liberties Union said the camera raises new questions about privacy. An \$81.5 million plan to safeguard Lower Manhattan and parts of midtown modeled after security measures in London's financial district, would feature surveillance cameras, as well as barriers that could automatically block streets.

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/local/wire/newyork/ny-bc-ny--nypdeye1001oct01,0,6934407.story>

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Communications Sector

26. *October 1, The Heights* – (New England) **Cell phone usage up 380 percent.** Technicians for Verizon Wireless studied the usage in New England university neighborhoods between 9 p.m. and 10 p.m. on both Thursday, Aug. 23 and Thursday, Sept. 6. Boston schools such as Northeastern University and Boston University saw a 280 percent and 70 percent increases, respectively, while the cell sites serving the Harvard and MIT areas climbed 50 and 20 percent. Overall, Verizon Wireless network usage has seen a 20 percent increase in the Boston area since early August.

Source:

<http://media.www.bcheights.com/media/storage/paper144/news/2007/10/01/News/Cell-Phone.Usage.Up.380.Percent-3002128-page2.shtml>

27. *September 30, Dslreports.com* – (National) **Satellite phone system to make rural areas safer.** Losing a cell phone connection due to gaps in reception is a common experience. At the very least, these gaps are frustrating and in some cases can be detrimental to a person's ability to access emergency services. TerreStar Networks is working on a \$1 billion satellite system designed to fill in those gaps to improve communications and emergency services. The system, which they hope to have up and running next year, will be tested out in Northeastern Vermont, an area chosen for its qualities as a "developmental sandbox," where applications for rural areas can be widely tested

Source: <http://www.dslreports.com/shownews/Satellite-Phone-System-to-Make-Rural-Areas-Safer-87983>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Commercial Facilities Sector

28. *October 1, Bucks County Courier Times* – (Pennsylvania) **Utility lines spark fire, shoppers evacuated.** Shoppers were evacuated from a Middletown, Pennsylvania shopping center after underground utility lines sparked an electric fire just before 3 p.m. Sunday and caused several businesses to lose power, officials said. Underground wires behind the Shoppes at Flowers Mill sparked a fire ball that shot about 6 feet in the air. Authorities evacuated the premises as a precaution for about a half hour before opening again. No injuries were reported.

Source:

<http://www.stltoday.com/stltoday/news/stories.nsf/illinoisnews/story/9A7D6AC09E93064B862573650082BD0C?OpenDocument>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

National Monuments & Icons Sector

29. *October 1, The Observer* – (Pennsylvania) **A memorial that merits restoring.** The Civil War memorial in Waynesburg, Pennsylvania's Memorial Park is in need of a major restoration, which could cost nearly \$100,000. The two-phase project would be the first restoration work to be completed on the 65-foot-high memorial since its construction 108 years ago.

Source: http://www.observer-reporter.com/OR/Story/10_01_green_e_editorial

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Dams Sector

30. *September 30, St. Louis Dispatch* – (Illinois) **Metro East leaders prepare for levee makeover.** In an attempt to avoid restrictions on development and costly flood insurance requirements that could affect one-third of the region's population and many of its major employers, local government leaders in Madison, Monroe and St. Clair counties are planning a coordinated effort to update and repair five aging levee systems. The cost could total \$100 million or more. The Army Corps of Engineers' St. Louis District has told local officials that all five Metro East levee systems are considered deficient by today's standards — not because they need to be higher, but because of under-seepage problems and aging pumps, gates, pipes and other infrastructure. The levees protect the American Bottom, the broad Mississippi River floodplain east of the river that stretches from Alton to south of Columbia. The anticipated flood map changes, which are expected to be finished in March 2008, would affect an estimated 4,000 businesses and more than 59,000 households. Cities in the area include Wood River, Granite City and East St. Louis. A FEMA official at the meeting Saturday said the current yearly federal flood insurance premium was \$576 for a single-family home valued at \$100,000. Policies purchased after the new maps go into effect would be more costly.

Source:

<http://www.stltoday.com/stltoday/news/stories.nsf/illinoisnews/story/9A7D6AC09E93064B862573650082BD0C?>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Reports – The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a daily [Monday through Friday] summary of open-source published information concerning significant critical infrastructure issues. The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is archived for ten days on the Department of Homeland Security Website: <http://www.dhs.gov/iaipdailyreport>

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

Content and Suggestions:	Send mail to NICCRReports@dhs.gov or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (202) 312-5389
Subscription and Distribution Information:	Send mail to NICCRReports@dhs.gov or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (202) 312-5389 for more information.

Contact DHS

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at nicc@dhs.gov or (202) 282-9201.

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Web page at www.us-cert.gov.

Department of Homeland Security Disclaimer

The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a non-commercial publication intended to educate and inform personnel engaged in infrastructure protection. Further reproduction or redistribution is subject to original copyright restrictions. DHS provides no warranty of ownership of the copyright, or accuracy with respect to the original source material.